

Beyond Belief Session 2B: Getting the Gospel Right

The Gospel of the Kingdom

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John Wesley preached a gospel that revolutionized people's lives. Wesley's gospel was directed at the total _____ of character and life.

We need to preach a gospel that naturally leads to _____ of life and character.

The Kingdom of the Heavens Matthew 4:17

Jews knew what the Kingdom of the Heavens was, it was the Kingdom of God.

The Jewish experience with God.... was that you experience God right here, right now.

Psalm 34:15

The Kingdom of God is Available Now

The Kingdom of God didn't come into existence with Jesus. It's from everlasting to everlasting. Daniel 4:3

The Kingdom of God is the _____ of God's effective _____.

- "Seek ye first..." be involved in what God is doing; have His kind of goodness and righteousness.
- "The Kingdom of God is at hand..." it is now accessible in a new way.

Jesus brought the Kingdom among human beings in a way that it had never been before. The primary difference was now that all you had to do was love and trust Jesus.

- Don't believe something ABOUT Him, believe HIM.
- Don't trust some arrangement He made, trust HIM.

Jesus came proclaiming the _____ of the Kingdom of God.

Repent means: think about your _____.

Now you can live in the Kingdom of the Heavens through confidence in Jesus Christ.

- Change your plans. What are you relying on?
- What are you counting on?
- Reconsider it in the light of the availability of Christ.

The Kingdom of God is the central message that Jesus brings.

Matthew 3:2 / Matthew 4:17 / Matthew 4:23 / Matthew 9:35 / Luke 4:43

If you want Jesus' results, preach Jesus' _____.

Paul preached the same message as Jesus! So did Philip. Acts 1:3 / Acts 8:12 / Acts 28:23 / Acts 28:30

In the name of Jesus means on His behalf, in His _____.

To preach Jesus adequately is to preach the Kingdom of God. They go together. They cannot be separated.

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Why Is This Important? Two Gospels of Sin Management

Gospel of Liberation ~ the Social Gospel

- Focused only on the correction of structural evils: racism, poverty, social injustice
- Comes up in favor of liberation of desire
- A gospel of sin management has to do with the _____ of sins.

But...

- Jesus as a _____ is taken out of the picture.
- Often pays no attention to _____ morality.
- Professional ethics are rules on how to stay out of trouble. They say nothing about how to be a good person.

Being a good person is what God is most interested in!

The Conservative Gospel of Sin Management

- Faith is believing the right things about Jesus and that secures heaven after death.
- It's a theory of _____ but it's presented as the whole gospel.
- Absorbs everything into justification and totally forgets about regeneration.
- Then the whole issue becomes _____ of sins.
 - Forgiveness of sins is absolutely essential and it has to be dealt with!
 - But it isn't the gospel that Jesus preached.
 - It is not the gospel that brought the church into existence.

Dallas' experience teaching his church:

- People struggled with their _____; reconciled themselves to never growing.
- There was no regular way to teach people in how to grow in Christlikeness.
- The whole message was merely how to have your sins forgiven. It was turned not to confidence in Jesus but to confidence in an _____ that God made through his death.

We must have a gospel that naturally leads to _____. There is no message of personal transformation!

But people are hungry for something that will bring them to where they know they ought to be. And get them out of this position of the flesh warring against the spirit and the spirit warring against the flesh and the things that you would do you cannot do. God never intended we live in that position. There is victory!

We must present Jesus Christ as the full person so we know we're trusting Him, not some ideas he had or even action he did.

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People have become mistrustful of love.

- _____ is ruling this country.
- How do you deal with social issues? You change the dynamics of the _____ life.
- But where is the gospel that gives us that?
- In these gospels there's no connection – discipleship isn't necessary.
- But we are supposed to hear Jesus' words and put them into practice! Matthew 7:24

Jesus' gospel of Kingdom life from above

Faith is confidence in Jesus and His present Kingdom.

Discipleship

Learning from _____ how to lead my life as if He were I.

The natural progression and connection:

faith --→ discipleship -→ obedience

It all rests on the foundation which is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God

Colossians 3:17

This isn't an extra job. This is THE WAY we do everything.

It's a gift of grace, but we're not passive in it.

GRACE isn't opposed to the ACTION of EFFORT.

GRACE is opposed to the ATTITUDE of _____.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is to make you a student of Jesus, surround you in the Trinitarian reality, and teach you how to do all things whatsoever (Jesus) commanded you.

Faith is confidence! If you believe Jesus was born of a virgin; that God raised Jesus from the dead, that He is Lord....You're in a different _____! Romans 10:9

Faith in Jesus...walk in that faith and that naturally takes up your whole life now. You are in position before God, to become the person that HE intended you to be.